

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 303454 TOSEC 250027

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 303454 ACTION CAIRO DAMASCUS INFO
AMMAN TEL AVIV DTD 26 DEC

QTE

S E C R E T STATE 303454

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TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADORS' RETURN FOR CONSULTATIONS

FOR AMBASSADORS EILTS AND MURPHY FROM THE SECRETARY

1. FYI. I HAVE RECEIVED A FULL REPORT FROM ROY ATHERTON OF
HIS TALKS. WE HAVE ALSO REVIEWED IN DEPTH THE SITUATION WE
FACE IN THE UPCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION ON THE MIDDLE
EAST, AND THE STRATEGY THAT MIGHT BE PURSUED BY THE U.S.

2. FYI. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE ONE MORE
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GO-AROUND WITH YOU--PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO THE

EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN POSITIONS AND EXPECTATIONS IN THE SC--
BEFORE I MEET WITH ALLON ON JANUARY 7-8. I WOULD THEREFORE
LIKE YOU TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON SO THAT YOU CAN BRING ME
THE VERY LATEST VIEWS FROM YOUR CAPITALS. I WOULD LIKE TO
MEET WITH YOU LATE JANUARY 5 AND POSSIBLY EARLY JANUARY 6
SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE LEFT WASHINGTON FOR RETURN TO YOUR
CAPITALS BEFORE REPEAT BEFORE ALLON TALKS BEGIN. MY
THOUGHT IS THAT YOU WILL CONVEY TO EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS,
RESPECTIVELY, OUR ASSESSMENT AFTER OUR TALKS AND IN SUCH A
WAY THAT THERE WILL BE NO UNDUE EXPECTATIONS ON THEIR PART.

3. FYI. WHILE WE EXPECT TO BE HAVING FURTHER HIGH-LEVEL
EXCHANGES WITH THE ISRAELIS BETWEEN NOW AND THE ALLON
VISIT, IF THERE IS TO BE ANY GIVE IN THE ISRAELI POSITION--
WHICH IS VERY DOUBTFUL--IT IS UNLIKELY TO COME OUT OF THE
ALLON VISIT, BUT FROM HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES. AT THIS
READING I EXPECT THAT YOU WOULD BE RETURNING TO YOUR
CAPITALS WITH A BRIEF THAT EMPHASIZES OUR STRONG VIEW
THAT SECURITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS SHOULD NOT GET OUT OF
HAND AND BE CONDUCTED IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO PREJUDICE
OTHER NEGOTIATING OPTIONS OUTSIDE THE SC IN THE FUTURE.
WE, OF COURSE, WILL DECIDE WHETHER THIS WILL BE YOUR BASIC
THRUST AFTER YOUR FURTHER REVIEW HERE.

4. FYI. IN EXPLAINING YOUR RETURN, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT
THERE BE STIMULATED NO UNDUE EXPECTATIONS FROM EITHER
EGYPT OR SYRIA AS A RESULT OF YOUR TALKS HERE. IN THIS
CONNECTION, WE HAVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT SADAT IS
REALISTIC IN NOT EXPECTING TOO MUCH, IF ANYTHING, TO COME
FROM THE SC, AND ASSAD REALIZES FROM HIS TALKS WITH
ATHERTON THAT "NO NEW WINDOW" HAS BEEN DEVELOPED THUS FAR.

5. THE ABOVE IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY TO GIVE YOU THE
PRESENT FLAVOR AS IT EXISTS HERE. YOU SHOULD MAKE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS TO THE EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS RESPECTIVELY:

A. SECRETARY WISHES TO THANK PRESIDENTS SADAT AND ASSAD
FOR RECEIVING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON CORDIALLY AND
ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. SECRETARY HAD FULL REPORTS OF THESE
TALKS AND THEY ARE BEING GIVEN CAREFUL STUDY, PARTICULARLY
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AS THEY RELATE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS BEGINNING
ON JANUARY 12.

B. SECRETARY HAS ASKED YOU TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR
FURTHER REVIEW AND DISCUSSIONS OF U.S. POLICY IN THE SC.
YOU WILL BE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY ON JANUARY 5-6
AND EXPECT TO RETURN TO CAIRO AND DAMASCUS RESPECTIVELY
PROMPTLY THEREAFTER. THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH THEIR DESIRE

AND OUR PROMISE TO STAY IN TOUCH THROUGHOUT.

C. AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON INDICATED, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SC PROCEEDINGS NOT BE PURSUED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PREJUDICE FUTURE NEGOTIATING POSSIBILITIES AND OPTIONS. OUR VIEW CONTINUES TO BE THAT SC COULD REAFFIRM 242 AND 338. TO GO BEYOND THIS WOULD UNDERMINE GENEVA FRAMEWORK; SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT BE IN THE ARAB INTERESTS BECAUSE PRINCIPAL RESULT WOULD BE STALEMATE AND STAGNATION, FORECLOSING OF FUTURE NEGOTIATING OPTIONS.

D. WE ARE CONVEYING OUR BASIC ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN SC NOW TO AVOID ANY FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDINGS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON INDICATED, WHICH WE CONFIRM, LIMITATIONS INVOLVED IN SC AS WE SEE IT. WE ARE PREPARED TO EXCHANGE FURTHER IDEAS AND ARE CONTINUING TO REVIEW THE SITUATION, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER VIEWS WHICH GOE AND GOS WOULD WISH TO CONVEY TO THE SECRETARY VIA AMBASSADORS EILTS AND MURPHY, RESPECTIVELY, SO THAT THEY COULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AT THE NEXT STAGE OF OUR REVIEW.

6. FOR AMEMBASSIES TEL AVIV AND AMMAN: DEPARTMENT WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE WANT YOU TO INFORM YOUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS OF EILTS AND MURPHY RETURN. SISCO UNQTE ROBINSON

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